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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,806	03/19/2004	Andreas S. Krebs	6631P010	8888
8791 7590 08/02/2007 BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 1279 OAKMEAD PARKWAY SUNNYVALE, CA 94085-4040			EXAMINER CHEUNG, VICTOR	
			ART UNIT 3714	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/02/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,806

Applicant(s)

KREBS ET AL.

Examiner

Victor Cheung

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 3 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Re Claims 3 and 14: Claim 3 recites the limitations of disallowing “a second set of functions” and “a third set of functions” in lines 2-3. However, the limitations of “a first set of functions” and “a second set of functions” have already been established in claim 1. It would seem that the limitations of claim 3 should read —a third set of functions—and —a fourth set of functions—, respectively. Claim 14 is similarly related to claim 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

4. Claims 1-6, 10-11, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

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Re Claim 1: Claim 1 is drawn to an authoring tool including a role allocation module and a function allocation module. A module, reasonably interpreted to be a computer software or program, does not fall into any one of the four statutory categories of process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter. A claim must be made to a proper computer readable medium encoded with functional descriptive material that can function with a computer to effect a useful, concrete, and tangible result in order to be statutory subject matter.

Claim 1 also does not result in anything that is useful, concrete, and tangible. Specifically, the result of providing functions to the roles is just a setting of parameters. There is no tangible result, as the result is just the changing of data or setting of bits.

Claims 2-6, 10, 11 do not resolve the deficiencies of claim 1.

Claim 21 is rejected for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 22 is rejected is rejected for lacking a useful, concrete, and tangible result, similar to claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-10 and 12-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owens et al. (US Patent No. 6,315,572) in view of Sadhwani-Tully (US Patent No. 6,785,822).

Re Claims 1, 12, 21, and 22: Owens et al. disclose an authoring tool to structure and create a computer based training course, the authoring tool including a instructional design role (Fig. 8) and a content definition role (Figs. 9-12) (Fig. 13, "Lesson Data" and "Relavent Data"). The authoring tool includes a plurality of functions, tools, buttons, etc., as seen in figures 8-11. The authoring tool is also encoded on a machine readable medium (Col. 25, Lines 29-30).

However, Owens et al. do not specifically disclose that the functions are allocated via a role allocation module and a function allocation module.

Sadhwani-Tully teaches a system and method for role based configuration of user profiles, including a role allocation module (Fig. 4, Ref. 402) and a function allocation module (Fig. 4, Ref. 408, 410, 412, 418) for allocating functions to each of the roles ("Profiles").

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include modules to customize the functions available to users under specific roles or profiles, thereby ensuring that the user is presented only with the functions the user requires or has access to.

Re Claim 2 and 13: Owens et al., in view of Sadhwani-Tully, teach the limitations of claim 1 above.

However, Owens et al. do not specifically teach the function allocation module allocating default sets of instructions.

Sadhwani-Tully teaches that the functions may be set to be the default functions (Fig. 4, Ref. 426; Col. 6, Lines 20-22).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to create default sets of functions such that the user is not required to run the function allocation modules each time the user wishes to regularly use a specific set of functions.

Re Claim 3 and 14: Owens et al., in view of Sadhwani-Tully, teach the limitations of claim 1 above.

However, Owens et al. do not specifically teach disallowing of sets of functions to the roles.

Sadhwani-Tully teaches that by granting functionality to a set of functions, the module is consequently limiting access functionality from specific groups or users (Col. 1, Lines 49-52).

Re Claims 4-5 and 15-16: Owens et al., in view of Sadhwani-Tully, teach the limitations of claim 1 above.

However, Owens et al. do not specifically teach presenting allocatable sets of functions for user selection.

Sadhwani-Tully teaches presenting allocatable sets of functions for user selection for the plurality of roles (Fig. 5A; Col. 6, Line 38 – Col. 7, Line 7). Each role/profile has an associated set of functions that are displayed (“action group”, Col. 6, Lines 52-54).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to present the sets of functions for user selection such that the user may easily select the functions to be allocated.

Re Claims 6 and 17: Owens et al. disclose the use of check boxes in an interface (Col. 21, Lines 49-52).

Examiner takes OFFICIAL NOTICE that the use of check boxes is well known in the art as one of the many methods to providing user input in any system.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use check boxes in the graphical user-selection mechanism, providing the user with a simple method to select a plurality of items.

Re Claims 7-10 and 18-20: Note that claims 7-10 and 18-20 are drawn to the limitations of a GUI customization module that share similar characteristics of the functions of claims 1-6 and 12-17, respectively.

Sadhwani-Tully teaches the GUI module to customize a display of functions to the user based on a user role (as per claims 7 and 18), selectively displaying user-selectable indicia only for functions allocated to the user role (as per claims 8 and 19), and displaying the user-selectable indicia within at least one of a drop-down menu, a pop-up menu, and function tabs within the GUI (as per claims 9 and 20). See figures 5A-6B.

Sadhwani-Tully teaches that the allocation module and the function allocation module comprise sub-modules of a customization module (Fig. 4).

7. Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Owens et al. (US Patent No. 6,315,572) and Sadhwani-Tully (US Patent No. 6,785,822) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Boon (US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0219494).

Re Claim 11: Owens et al., in view of Sadhwani-Tully, teach the limitations of claim 1 above.

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However, they do not specifically teach that the modules are part of a setup-wizard.

Boon teaches that the use of wizards are well known in the art (Paragraph 101).

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a setup wizard including the role allocation and function allocation modules, providing the user a guided process to use the role allocation and function allocation modules.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Vigue et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0081951) discloses a module including a customizable interface providing only tools and information to a user that the user is permitted to access or that are relevant to the user's work.
- Sappal (US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0081951) discloses a dynamic interface module that changes the presentation of information based on a role the user takes.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor Cheung whose telephone number is (571) 270-1349. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 9-5:00.

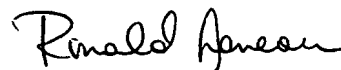
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

VC

Victor Cheung
July 30, 2007



RONALD LANEAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

7/31/07